11th August 1965]

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) The maximum prices fixed by Government of India for Kattai Samba paddy, a variety of paddy which is mostly consumed in Madras State is Rs. 39·50 per quintal. Based on this, the prices of other varieties of paddy have been worked out and this Government have notified the maximum prices of paddy for different varieties which will apply to the entire Madras State. No separate rates have been fixed by the Government for Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, how many varieties of rice are available in Ramanathapurm district and what prices have been fixed for each variety?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have just now stated that different varieties of rice are catalogued and prices are fixed. It does not vary from district to district.

Bus signal boards

* 108 *Q*.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Highways Department has been entrusted with the work of distributing bus signal boards to panchayats and municipalities; and

(*b*) if so, the designation of the officer-in-charge of the work?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) & (*b*) The Highways and Rural Works Department has not been specifically entrusted with the work of distributing bus signal boards to panchayats and municipalities. The municipalities and the panchayats get the required number of traffic signs from the Highways and Rural Works Department. The Divisional Engineer (Highways and Rural Works), Transport and Machinery Division, Madras, is in charge of manufacturing the traffic signs and supplies them to the municipalities and panchayats on specific requisition from these local bodies.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Is it not possible to have some stocks in the district so that the panchayats or municipalities concerned can get it easily?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The Government have not received any complaint regarding lack of supplies.

Kanyakumari District Headquarters Hospital

* 109 *Q*.—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of doctors serving in the Kanyakumari District Headquarters Hospital;

(*b*) the number of specialists among them; and

(*c*) whether any separate E.N.T. and Ophthalmic Departments have been opened?